



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Takafumi KIKUCHI et al.

Serial No. 10/726,644

Art Unit: 2681

Filed: December 4, 2003

Examiner:

For: DATA PROCESSING  
APPARATUS AND DATA  
PROCESSING METHOD

Atty Docket: 0121/0035

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**FILED PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

For insuring compliance with the applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, the undersigned hereby submits the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner in charge of the above-identified patent application.

These documents are being submitted (check only one of the next four boxes):

- ☐ within three months of the filing of the above U.S. national application or of the date of entry of the U.S. national stage in an International Patent Application (no fee is due); (37 CFR §1.97(b))
- ☒ before receiving a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified patent application (no fee is due); (37 CFR §1.97(b))
- ☐ following receipt of a first Office Action, but before issuance of a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance (if this box is checked, one of the last three boxes also must be checked); (37 CFR §1.97(c))

OR

- ☐ following receipt of a Notice of Allowance or a Final Office Action. The undersigned hereby requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement after the mailing the Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance by filing this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR §1.97(d)
- ☐ The Commissioner is authorized to debit \$180.00 for payment of the fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p). (37 CFR §1.97(d)(2))
- ☐ The undersigned certifies that each item of this information is being submitted within three months of the date it was cited by the European Patent Office in a counterpart application. (37 CFR §1.97(e)(1))
- ☐ The undersigned certifies that, after making reasonable inquiry, he/she has no knowledge that any item of this information was cited by a foreign patent office in a counterpart application or was known more than three months prior to this submission. (37 CFR §1.97(e)(2))

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any deficiency in the above fee(s) or to charge any additional fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 or 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0501. A duplicate copy of this authorization is attached for the Finance Branch.

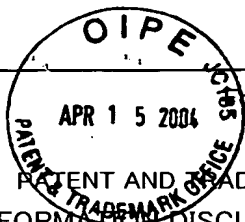
Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 15, 2004



Form PTO-1449  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.  
0121/0035

SERIAL NO.  
10/726,644

APPLICANT  
Takafumi KIKUCHI et al.

FILING DATE  
4-Dec-03

GROUP

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date M/D/Y	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date	

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

						Translation	
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date M/D/Y	Country	Class/ Subclass	Yes	No
		2000-172806 with English abstract	6/23/00	Japan Ando et al.			

#### OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc. )

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	

EXAMINER:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.